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In the children's hearts no stirrings

that to them so horious brought!

We are beginning at - am yet to ponder some of  
the sayings about - children: that these are the first  
in the kingdoms of heaven: that their angels do  
ever behold the face of god: & that it were better  
for a man that a millstone were hung  
about his neck who was cast into the depths  
of the sea than that he should offend a child.  
This gospel of the higher estate of childhood is  
only beginning to dawn upon us, & whether we  
are to come to a full knowledge of the truth  
depends. I think, on the use we make of such  
light as we have gained. And here we are  
walking blindfold amongst pitfalls many -  
with mere glimmerings of light on our way. To  
this child worship is, after all, no more than  
a movement - in one direction of the  
cult - of humanity - which is stirring us  
all, which may lead us to the apprehension

the evolution of being. who added to his own  
charm of innocence shows daily unex-  
pected traits of grace, delicacy, refinement, &c.  
recognised & reported in as family characteris-  
tics peculiar to him. This peculiarity  
is to be expected if we look upon them as redeemed  
beings. We cannot too much appreciate &  
rejoice in the sweet & beauty of natural children  
& parents must need take some pride in traits  
of courage, courtesy, grace, which they see  
belong to their children by right of descent.  
But here, it seems to me, it is necessary  
to enter a protest. This tendency to admiring  
what there is in the children as human  
beings, & what there is in man as sons  
of good stock, may incline us to let  
them alone more than is wholesome. We  
all know of families in which the  
children practically bring themselves up. The

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to divine Son of man. & may condus in no  
sterile places where but Positivist sits, without  
God in the world. Literature, history, biography,  
art, science, charity herself, & in <sup>nature.. little</sup> request  
magnify humanity, no matter at what  
cost. And now wonder that this endeavour should  
lead to the study setting forth of human  
nature & its loveliest in the persons of the  
children.

The charact. novel has had its full share  
in fostering this tendency to amateur. ad.  
miration. We all know of our most pleasant  
& helpful writer - who has given us charming  
studies of lovely family life, & who has  
perhaps been the strongest of the influences  
at work in moulding the 'nice' people  
of one or two generations. How they  
appreciate every delicate turn of character -  
with refinement! One feels prompted

in the company of such pleasant  
appreciative people, like the man whose  
eyes we opened, we look about for delightful  
traits of meekness, sweetness, devotion,  
in the people belonging to us. It is good &  
wholesome to admire, & no doubt the  
world is the better for having had its eyes  
opened to beauty of character in unexpected  
places.

The mother above all others adds down  
to a perpetual feast: of this or that bird  
is lovely in the p.m. up, how much  
more lovely the spontaneous outgoings  
of the child! All childhood is lovely, unless  
as it is marred by the heedlessness  
& the wickedness of its guardians.  
How lovely is the child ~~sores~~ so robust  
~~bottom~~  
Strength & sweetness come by inheritance  
& have delighted both mothers to watch

What - get - from my father?

Lusty life, vigorous will;

What - from my gentle mother?

Cheerful days, & poets still:-

Says father: <sup>like the rest - you</sup> ~~was~~ poets are born, not made,  
& get - the most - of what - they are from their  
parents. But it did not take a poet -

~~a man does not~~ to discover this:  
people ~~want~~ to have known it - time and  
opinion. Like father, like child: - they said,  
& were satisfied, for it was not the way  
in earlier days to thresh out the fresh  
facts of life. Not - now: we talk about it  
& about it, call it - heredity, state it with  
count in our assertions at - any rate, if not - in  
our practice. Nobody writes a biography now  
without attempting to produce <sup>reptors</sup> antecedents &  
early surroundings that shall account for his

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It is at once a divine law, with the promise  
of great reward, & an instrument put into  
the hands of parents to enable them in this  
almost-divine function of moulding character.  
It is most valuable to the grace of God: it is  
the grace of God, as truly as sunshine,  
spring flowers, children's games, manifest  
that grace. And what is more, it is only the  
Christian parent who works this law to its  
perfect issues. Others try, laboriously &  
methodically, but they surely overlook a leak  
somewhere which lets in the flood & sinks  
the vessel. Perhaps the reason why many  
Christian people don't reach a higher standard  
of perfection is because they don't use perfectly  
this instrument for the modelling  
of characters which has been put in their hands.  
But if we neglect to use it for ourselves,  
we will for our children: at any rate, others  
will.